



**February 2011**

**Volume 7, Issue 02**

**Copyright RCT**

## From The Editor...

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Hello again fellow club members!

Welcome to another fun and exciting issue of the "Loggers Bark".

During the last board meeting, Al Ferguson N7OMS, a member of the library committee, brought some of the oldest Loggers Barks in existence. These date way back and he also had issues of the prior club newsletter, called the "QRM".

It is very interesting to look at these old newsletters because they contain a valuable record of club activities from years past. Old radios, old cars, hair... Yeah the OT's of today had hair back then... Imagine that! It's especially interesting if you are one of the young men or women in these old newsletters.

Doug Oakman and the library committee have an on going project to capture and bind these old newsletters. If you have any of the old News letters collecting dust, give Doug a call and see if the issues that he is missing might be the ones moldering away in your basement.

These documents are an interesting addition to the club's history. We will all be thankful that the library committee is preserving this material for future members to read and enjoy. If Doug is not available, AL N7OMS or Pat WT7N might be able to help.

Right now, the new officers, including me, are getting our collective feet on the ground, and getting on track with RCT business. After a somewhat rocky start, we are getting things going again.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest members of the RCT team, starting with Larry Watson KD4VOM, who has agreed to reprise his secretarial role for the club until elections come again this fall. A great big thanks and "Welcome back!"

In addition, AL Churchill AD7BU has agreed to take on the duties as the club's Vice President. I can't tell you all how glad I am that Al has stood to help the club. A big thanks to Al also!

73 for now, Gary WG7X



## News and Views from "The Prez"

### "Titles"

So, a couple of us were standing around one fine day, and the subject of titles came up, in kind of a joking way, You know, those titles that most of us could and sometimes do add after our names, usually in printed correspondence.

So, I got to thinking about the titles that I have carried and could carry and maybe might carry eventually.



The most important one might be: "Dad". Being a dad is the hardest thing that I've ever done, and the weird thing about it is you never know when, if ever, your job as a dad is done. One of the great mysteries of life. No matter how old your kid gets he or she will forever be your child. A sobering thought, isn't it?

Tied with Dad would be "Husband" of course you can be a dad without being a husband, but they kind of go together. This is usually another lifetime commitment, but unlike "dad" husbands can sometimes be demoted to spouse, or ex-husband. Hopefully that will not happen to many of our stalwart members!

How about the various job titles that we carry around during our lives?

Are any of them really significant in the long run? Probably not but it makes for interesting material to talk about during one of those long ragchews on the ham bands. Some times it is hard to let go of previous or current working titles, but usually it means very little compared to the first two types of titles.

Well, how about the various titles that can be obtained with our hobby?

I'm glad that you asked!

You too can carry around a significant RCT title!

Such as:

1. Field Day chairman!
2. W7DK at the Fair!
3. Salmon Run Chair!
4. The W7DK Holiday banquet!

Think about adding one of those titles to your resume, and let one of your elected officers know. My contact information along with all the others officers is on the next to last page of this fine publication.

73 All,  
Gary WG7X  
RCT President

**BOARD MEETING  
2 February 2011**

The 2 February 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams – WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams – WG7X  
Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU  
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM  
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY  
Board Member: Alan Lentz – W7AML  
Board Member: Crystal Quamme – K7XK  
Board Member: Nick Winter – K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 names on the attendance roster.*

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Gary notes Peter Baker ADE7EU's accident, resulting in broken bones, but Peter is on the mend.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** A few membership renewals, club newsletters and one expense report were received

**Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 5 January meeting as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Bob circulated the January financial report indicating an income of \$1,348.69 and expenses of 1,837.99. A copy of the January monthly financial summary is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Frank AC7JY reports the membership roster is up to date, and he has been providing Leonard KATWNF with current information. Leonard has developed an updated membership application form and proposed membership card format which were circulated. Work remains to be done on the membership renewal letter and eventual development of the club membership roster.

**Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM reports that the Bethel Jr. High facility has been penciled in, and he will submit the formal reservation and request for ARRL Hamfest Sanction soon.

This year's Hamfest flyer has been completed and a thousand copies printed in time for the 12 March Mike and Key Hamfest distribution. Gates open at 8 and doors don't open 'til 9 and that's when we hand out our flyers.

The Hamfest team still lacks a manager, but most key jobs have been filled. We really need someone to take on the Hamfest Snack Bar.

**Field Day:** Gary WG7X notes that we need someone to step up and chair this Years Field Day. Nick Winter – K7MO will be unable to serve as Field Day manager this year.

**Property Management**

Frank AC7JY circulated a listing of proposed surplus property to be disposed of, mostly at the upcoming Mike and Key Hamfest.

**A Motion to approve the 2 February property selection list for disposition, as outlined in our Property Management Standard Operating Procedure, was made, seconded and passed.**

**Repeater Committee**

Alan Lentz W7AML: The 440 repeater power supply has failed and we need to find a replacement. Alan reports that the Repeater Committee suggests the committee should have an annual budget. The Board requested that the Repeater Committee develop a budget proposal for the 2011 calendar year and present it to the Board for approval. Alan indicated that repeater crystals, and updated IRLP software were on their list.

Nick K7MO has received completed coordination of the 145.21 Murphy repeater with WARA, and is renewing coordination of the 147.38 Crawford Mt. repeater. W7DK has paid the 147.38 renewal fee well as the membership fee for W7DK membership in WARA

**Library Committee:**

Al Ferguson N7OMS has done additional research into repairing or replacing the carpet in the Library with carpet squares. Al estimates the need for around 145/175 square feet of carpet squares to do the job. He wonders if the HF Room and Museum may also be interested in replacing their carpets as well. Al will obtain some cost estimates.

Nick – K7MO offered to contact someone he knows that installs carpeting, and will work with Al to research the cost of such a project. Preparing the flooring under the carpet seems to be an important element in a good installation.

Al N7OMS brought in a December 1982 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the Loggers BARK with the cover page of LOGGERS BARK, VOL. 0 NR. 0, December 1963. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue was edited by Scott Huntley K7CZY and published by Dick Ryan W7RGD, and listing as reporters; Doc Spike W7OS, Jerry Seligman W7BUN, Ethel Devish W7WLX and photography by Bud Emmons WB7CW.

Al also brought in several issues of "QRM" which was the official publication of the Puget Sound Council Of Amateur Radio Clubs during the early 1950s.

#### **HF Radio Room Operations:**

Gary WG7X noted that the Ten Tec is in bad shape and the Club needs to consider a replacement. Al N7OMS suggested contacting ICOM and others to see if they might be helpful in replacing our aging HF gear.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Bylaws Revision**

The Bylaws revision effort established last year remains an ongoing project. Peter Baker AD7EU offered to participate.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Club Officers Appointments:**

President Gary WG7X announced the acceptance of appointments by Alton Churchill AC7BU as Vice President, and Larry Watson KD4VOM as Secretary for the Radio Club of Tacoma.

##### **Financial Account Audit**

The President needs to appoint a financial account auditing committee to complete the audit required by the Bylaws. Former treasurers' Pat Wingerter WT7N and Chuck Kemmer AC7QN were suggested as possible candidates to conduct the audit.

#### **Annual Budget Planning**

Last year Joe K7ZG conducted a helpful budget data call to assist the club in planning for the year's activities. Larry KD4VOM will provide Bob AD7LJ with copies of Joe's budget data call information and formats.

#### **Radio Club of Tacoma Planning:**

President Gary provided a list of key club events and activities for the coming year many of which need managers/coordinators.

#### **Jim Kirkreit Picnic**

Larry KD4VOM is retiring from the annual picnic event. We need someone to pick up this annual event. Reservations need to be made soon. If we use the Pierce County Parks location, the booking opens on the first business day in March and good spots/shelters book that morning. Lakewood Steilacoom park has one shelter, and, here too, summer scheduling must be done early. Steve Blacksten AD7VL was suggested as a possible leader for this event.

#### **Field Day**

Last year's Field Day was managed by Nick K7MO and Bob AD7LJ. Nick can't do Field Day this year, and Bob also has commitments, although both are available to provide assistance to this year's coordinator.

#### **Hamfest**

Most of last year's team will continue this year's Hamfest, Larry KD4VOM, Al K7HW and Rick KE7EMW. Maury W7OT is joining the crew to handle Hamfest task assignments. The major vacancy here is a manager for the Hamfest Snack Bar. We need someone to take on this important job... Contact Larry KD4VOM.

#### **W7DK @the Fair**

Last year's crew, under the leadership of Stephen AD7AB did great job. Stephen has agreed to chair the group again this year. Crystal K7XK has offered to help again this year.

### **Salmon Run**

Al N7OMS, Gary WG7X, Rich KR7W and others made last year's Salmon Run an operational and financial success. Al needs someone to handle the mailing and pledge operations this coming year. Please contact Gary WG7X or Al N7OMS.

### **W7DK Holiday Banquet**

Jim Mendenhall KE7WHN and Greta KF7SKW did a bang up job at last year's banquet. There were several who believe moving the banquet to a noon 1pm time frame would be better.

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**Special Event Station:** Frank AC7JY recalled that the club operated a Special Event Station on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mt. St Helen's eruption, and suggested we might consider one again for the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The discussion included the fact that the club is celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, and that may be a great opportunity to operate a Special Event Station.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **Freeze Your Buns Off**

Al N7OMS reminded all of this weekend's QRP FYBO contest at the Point Defiance, Owens Beach shelter. Come join the intrepid crew, and wear warm clothes...

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm



Al, N7OMS at last year's FYBO. BE sure to read more about this year's FYBO in this issue!

### **VE REPORT** **by John AC7WW**

Snow was in the forecast for city of Tacoma; however six Volunteer Examiners braved the inclement weather to conduct a testing session Tuesday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Six candidates showed up at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma and all passed. The VE's graded four element two and two element four exams. Leonard, KA7NWF passed the Extra exam for a birthday present to himself.

New license class earned was four Technicians, and two Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Steve, AD7VL  
Gregg, KF7BAO  
Jon, AD7AW  
Rich, KK7VH  
Joe, K7ZG

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

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### **GENERAL MEETING** **26 January 2011 MINUTES**

The 26 January 2011 Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Treasurer: Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ  
Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY  
Board: Si Nelsen -- KA7AQT  
Board : Nick Winter -- K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 31 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by President Gary WG7X

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** There were no reports of illness or SK



**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None****ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Mike and Key Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM reminded all of the upcoming Mike and Key Hamfest on 12 March, and solicited members to assist in handing out flyers for the Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest coming in August. The Mike & Key Hamfest gates open at 8 and the doors open at 9. Volunteers can meet for breakfast at the South Hill Dennys around 7 am or meet at the Puyallup Fairgrounds at 8 to help pass out flyers to those waiting for the Hamfest doors to open.

**Blind Ham Assistance:** Frank AC7JY and Gary WG7X announced an effort to solicit donations for a long time Ham who is now blind and wheelchair bound who is in need of assistance procuring equipment for him to voice operate a station. The goal is to raise \$ 600.00 for the needed equipment. Information is available at the clubhouse, or contact Frank AC7JY.

**Technician Classes:** Stephen AD7AB announced the next Technician Class is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse. There will be a special two Saturday Technician Class for sponsored by the Tacoma DEM for the Tacoma Fire Department on Saturday 26 February and Saturday 5 March.

**Straight Key Century Club:** Al Ferguson N7OMS announced the club will be participating this Friday in the month long Straight Key Century Club K3Y event.

K3Y is a month long special event celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club. It starts at the stroke of midnight ushering in the New Year 2011 and ends at 2359 on January 31, 2011.

Club members make arrangements with a regional coordinator to operate their station using the K3Y special event call sign. Members and non-members alike can make contact with the K3Y stations to earn a certificate and/or a K3Y QSL card.

Note: Contacts with K3Y DO count towards all SKCC awards! However, please do not put K3Y on your award applications. List the K3Y operator's personal call on the award application instead. More information can be found at the SKCC website: <http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/index.html>

**PROGRAM:** Tonight's program was a repeat presentation of the popular 2008 Dayton Hamfest ARVN program, full of humor and information including a 2KW backpack linear HF amplifier...

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**DOOR PRIZE:** Dave Riley N7PVZ picked up both the Door Prize; a hand held voltmeter and the Raffle Prize 12 Vdc power supply.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

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## A Blast from the Past in Ham Radio From the Barkie Archives...



"Less is More" could be the theme of the 2004 DK at the Beach antenna contest. Here Sean KD7ZOX receives the grand prize, a new ARRL Antenna Handbook, from Judge Mike KB7ZDR for entering the antenna with the worst receive signal.



Joe, K7ZG, at the FYBO @ Point Defiance park. See more @ Page 15

**From the RCT Mailbag:**

Club members,

I just wanted to let the Tacoma Radio Club know about my mom who turned 99 in October. Married to my Dad (William Reuter <W7KT> of Vashon Island) for 74 years plus until his passing five years ago. Dad was a life member of the Tacoma Armature Radio Club until his passing in 2007. Mom (Helen Reuter) lives in Assisted Living here in Colfax, Washington close to me and is doing rather well for her 99 years. Memory is not to good in some things mostly recent things. But she can quote a lot of things from the past. We often talk about my dad and his hamming days and all the contests and awards he had received over the years. I wish I could have maintained the W7KT call sign in the family but it is now with a new owner in North Seattle. I sent the gentleman information about my dad and a copy of Dad's last license issued to him by the FCC. The Tacoma Club was a great part of my Dad's life. Probably from the beginning. I know he got his ticket in 1928 in Tacoma when he was in high school and lived on 21st and North Oak St.

Thank you for all the support giving to my Dad for so many years.

Michael C. Reuter  
1101 Hilty Rd.  
Colfax, Washington 99111

**To which Rick KE7EMW responded:**

Hi Michael,

Thanks for contacting the RCT. I checked the historical database and found your dad's membership record. He first joined the RCT on Feb 16, 1926. In fact, I see a notation that implies that he is in one of our historical photographs – I'm making myself a note to research that when time allows.

It's an uncommon blessing to have your mother with you for so many years – anyone who makes it to 99 is to be congratulated and celebrated often with family.

I'll pass your note on to the Bark (club newsletter) editor and the secretary who also enjoys club history and research.

Thanks again,

Rick - KE7EMW

Dateline: February 2011

## Sparky's "View from the Shack"

*This and that around the club, and more...*

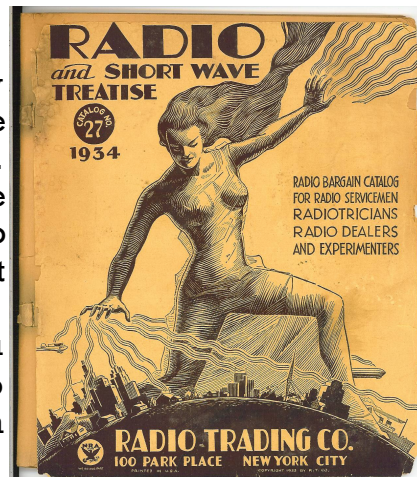
*Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- Legacy photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys
- From the RCT Mailbox
- From the ARRL Section Manager

### Legacy Photo

This months legacy photo is from the dusty club archives... A 1934 catalog. The club has managed to preserve and protect a fair amount of club

history. Something that comes to mind when you consider that this year, on October 16th, The Radio Club of Tacoma celebrates its 95th Anniversary...That's 18 years before this catalog was printed. ... Time to start baking the cake...



### Around the Club...

Members who attended the 26 January meeting enjoyed a reprise of the 2008 Dayton Hamfest video thanks to Frank -A C7JY. The new officers are getting down to business; Gary WG7X the President, Nick K7MO again serving on the Board, along with Crystal Quamme K7XK a relatively new member. The Property Management team has been busy sorting through our holdings to identify items for auction or sale at area Hamfests, including the Mike and Key Hamfest coming up on 12 March.

Gary—WG7X is also looking for folks to step up to head up several club activities in the coming year; notably the annual club Kirkreit picnic usually held in June; this year's Field Day operation; and others. If you have a hankering combined with some latent talent in organizing and managing or administrative & computer skills; there are opportunities a-plenty.. Just contact Gary WG7X, or any of the other Club officers.

Its also time to consider renewals. The Club is busy preparing the annual renewal applications, but fear not; your membership is not in arrears until March 31st. The club roster of course should not be expected until sometime after March 31st when all have had ample opportunity to renew.

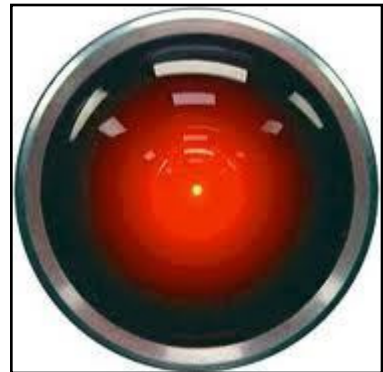


## ARRL...and such...

### CONVERSATION

#### Whither, Single-Op?

In the last issue, I discussed how radio is changing from a one-at-a-time to everybody-at-once. ("Parallel to Serial", 5 Jan 2011) That makes a big difference in how we think of what we do and how we compete. Another big game-changer is the ability of software to compete with the "wet-ware" between our ears. Just this past week, in a practice round Watson, the IBM-designed supercomputer, [beat the all-time Jeopardy champs at their own game](#).



Does the relentless advance of computers put our own game in jeopardy? No more than the advent of steam-power eliminated sailing competitions. Nor has technology relegated sailing to the back-benches of re-enactment hobbies. Read through the reporting on the America's Cup sailing yacht races and you will find competition as intense as any cutting-edge sport. Yet, it is important to clearly identify what technological apples are being compared. Indeed, a race of the sailing against engine-powered vessels would not be much of a draw. We need to make the same set of distinctions in radiosport. As always, definitions are important.

First, let's start with the word "assisted" as it is found in category definitions. Although contest rules for "Single-Op Assisted" categories are clear, there is lots of confusion. The *only* thing to which the term "assisted" applies is to receiving information about other contest operation from outside your station boundary and via something else than the contest bands and modes. It does not apply to devices or persons that help you make a bigger score. This was once clear and understood by pretty much everybody, but there is that word with all its superfluous connotations. It really needs to be changed.

The discussion about "assisted" categories and "assistance" actually covers two completely distinct things; the first is the use of information I just described, usually from what is referred to as a "spotting network." (This is still called "packet", although the use of actual packet radio links to carry the information is rapidly disappearing in favor of Internet links.) The information itself consists of any data about the operation of another contest station, such as frequency, time, exchange, or call sign. The second thing is the use of non-human devices in support of one's operating. Mixing these two different topics in one category definition is guaranteed to make for a difficult conversation. (The additional consideration of single- versus multi-operator, I'll leave for another column.)

Confusion about the first topic can be defused by using a more appropriate title for the category. For example, "Single-Operator with Spotting Network" (SO-SN). Say what you mean and mean what you say. If an operator uses information from the spotting network, that is an SO-SN entry. If we want to be completely general and refer to the information alone - a better definition - then a more appropriate name for the category might be "Single-Operator - Connected" although the inevitable "connected to what?" arises. Nevertheless, in this category the operator is allowed to use information about the operation of other stations received from sources outside the station boundary.

Defining "assistance" from non-human devices is not quite as straightforward. After all, electronic keyers were a huge leap forward when they were introduced. A clever layout of paper dupe sheets was certainly helpful - isn't the ARRL's version, after all, called "Operating Aid Number Six"? (What happened to aids one through five and was there a seventh?) And what about computer logging?

Having been immersed in this argument for some time, it is apparent to me that the crux of the argument is technology that replaces a crucial human function - that of turning an audio stream into the information required to make a record of a contest contact. i.e. automated decoding or "copy". (Realize that the rest of this discussion must necessarily exclude radiosport using digital modes since humans are not capable of copying digital transmissions. Yes, we all have heard the story about the RTTY operator who could recognize call signs...)

At present, with the exception of CW Skimmer and the occasional code reader, there is no device in the amateur shack that turns Morse code's on-off patterns of audio tones into characters. Similarly, there is no device (outside of certain large government agencies) that reliably translates the audio of human speech into characters. Thus, we have a key, well-defined "bottleneck" through which all operation can be constrained to pass in order to qualify for a specific category. If "copy" is defined as translating audio into alphanumeric characters, then "manual copy" is a human performing the copying function. An appropriate category name for such operation might be "Single-Operator, Manual Copy" (SO-MC) and one for which copying devices are allowed, "Single-Operator, Automated Copy" (SO-AC)

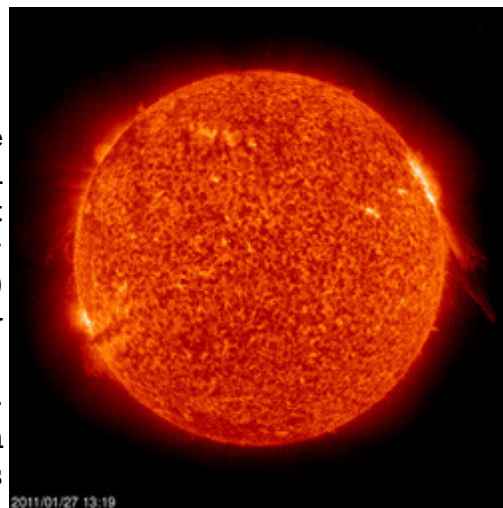
So now we have three potential categories; SO-MC, SO-AC, and SO-SN. Do we really need all three? Not really, in my opinion. The trend in contest operating is clearly to add more technology and more information. In the face of such upheaval, it's important to provide an entry category for "sail-powered radio" and the savvy salts that steer them. Almost equally important, the category names should not make value judgments about the style of operating - we're all very good at doing that ourselves, thanks. I propose the following two names for our categories: Single-Operator, Manual Class (SO-MC) and Single-Operator, Cyber Class (SO-CC). SO-MC consists of a single human operator, receiving no information from outside a physical station boundary except on the bands and modes permitted for contest contacts and using no devices that translate the information carried by transmitted signals into the characters required for a record of the contact. Band scopes and spectrum analyzers are fine. Code readers, CW Skimmers and other automated decoders in any mode that extracts and evaluates a signal's information, speech-to-

operator but no limits are placed on the information that can be used or its sources. I'm sure contest sponsors would need to refine those definitions but they are a start. The wind-sailor and motor-boater have managed to get along for nearly 200 years, sharing waterways and devising rules of navigation that allow all to share the rights of way. Competitions are enjoyed by all for what they are. Surely we can do the same.

**73, Ward NØAX**

## Solar Update

Tad "[Like a comet pulled from orbit as it passes a Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers were up for the past week (ending January 26) by more than 11 points to 32.6, compared to the previous week. The average daily solar flux rose more than 3 points to 83.5. The planetary A index average was down 2 points to 2.9, and mid-latitude A index was down 1.5 points to 2.4. The latest prediction from NOAA/USAF shows lower solar activity with solar flux for January 27-28 at 79 and 78, then 76 for January 29 through February 2, 78 on February 3-4 and 80 on February 5-6. They show planetary A index at 5 on January 27-February 2, then 10 on February 3-4 and 7 on February 5. Geophysical Institute Prague sees quiet conditions January 28 through February 1, quiet to unsettled February 2 and unsettled February 3. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, January 28. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism"



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, January 27, 2011 from [NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope](#). This image was taken at 304 Angstrom; the bright material is at 60,000 to 80,000 Kelvin.

is brought to you by Stephen Schwartz's [For Good](#) from the musical [Wicked](#). .

## Attaboys:

2011 is upon us, and full of potential. Realizing that potential is somewhat more problematic... It is, however, the volunteer efforts of the volunteers who choose to give back to the Club that keeps us alive and kicking after all these years. This month the tip of the hat goes to Mike W7XTZ who has kept the meeting refreshments flowing for several months. Just put some folding money in the pot folks to keep the good stuff coming. Thanks Mike.

**From the Radio Club of Tacoma Mailbox:**

Sparky thought it appropriate to share this recent e-mail message about a long time member of the Club William Reuter W7KT, sent to us by his son Michael.

Club members,

I just wanted to let the Tacoma Radio Club know about my mom who turned 99 in October. Married to my Dad (William Reuter <W7KT> of Vashon Island) for 74 years plus until his passing five years ago. Dad was a life member of the Tacoma Armature Radio Club until his passing in 2007. Mom (Helen Reuter) lives in Assisted Living here in Colfax, Washington close to me and is doing rather well for her 99 years. Memory is not too good in some things mostly recent things. But she can quote a lot of things from the past. We often talk about my dad and his hamming days and all the contests and awards he had received over the years. I wish I could have maintained the W7KT call sign in the family but it is now with a new owner in North Seattle. I sent the gentleman information about my dad and a copy of Dad's last license issued to him by the FCC. The Tacoma Club was a great part of my Dad's life. Probably from the beginning. I know he got his ticket in 1928 in Tacoma when he was in high school and lived on 21st and North Oak St.

Thank you for all the support giving to my Dad for so many years.

Michael C. Reuter  
1101 Hilty Rd.  
Colfax, Washington 99111

**A Note from the ARRL Western Washington Section Manager:**

TO: Western Washington Amateur Radio Community

FROM: Jim Pace K7CEX, WWA Section Manager

Bill Vaughn, a writer and real estate investor, once wrote: "An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." An interesting observation which makes me think I might be an optimist because I generally, on December 31st, am in bed by 10:00 PM, or possibly I'm just getting old and can't stay up that late.

Well the truth is both. I am getting older and staying up until midnight seems a waste of time when I could be sleeping in my comfortable bed, and I am an optimist – believing that with hard work and resolve, the New Year can be better than the Old Year.

2010 found many new Hams in Western Washington. The vast number of clubs that sponsored classes and VE License Exams showed that Amateur Radio in Western Washington is alive and well. Along with the new Hams came a ruling from the FCC, after quite a battle, which removed the restriction on Agency Employees, so that they could participate in drills and exercises, in preparation for emergency operations.

2010 was an interesting contesting year; the bands cooperated sometimes and other times made us work a bit harder. The 2010 Field Day was accented with reports of good band conditions and lots of food and fun. I personally worked Six Meters for the first time in many years and was able to pile up some points for our Centralia ARES group. Another highlight for me, in 2010, was the visits I had with many Clubs and ARES groups in Western Washington. Let me remind those Clubs that have recently changed Officers, to update your information with Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO the Western Washington Affiliated Clubs Coordinator or via the ARRL Website.

Before I leave the activities of 2010, I'd like to thank the Western Washington Section Staff for all of their support and help in overseeing the many programs in Western Washington: Monte Simpson, K2MLS, Assistant Section Manager; Bob Purdom, AD7LJ, Assistant Section Manager for Special Projects; Steven McKeen, W7QLO, Section Emergency Coordinator; Scott Douglas, W7XC, Section Official Observer Coordinator; Tom Herman, N1BEC, Section Technical Assistance Coordinator; Bill Frazier, W7ARC, Section Traffic Manager; Bruce Miller, KC7IAY, Section Public Information Coordinator; Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO, Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator; Lee Chambers, KI7SS, Section Government Liaison. All of these folks have proven to be excellent managers and are willing to help you with their programs. In addition to these, my sincere thanks to all the ARES Groups, Clubs and Leadership Officials who have helped to make the Western Washington Amateur Radio Community the best in the Nation. And Thank You to all the ARRL Members in Western Washington; without you, we have nothing. You have made our Section a success.



2011 will bring with it more challenges that we are ready meet head on. One of those challenges is to develop a Ham Radio interest in youth. To that end, my goal is to get information to the Junior and Senior High Science Teachers, about our Teachers Institute. The Institute is an excellent place for the teachers to experience Wireless Technology Projects for their Science Curriculum. From their experiences we hope to inspire some youth to join our hobby. More info on Teachers Institute can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-in-wireless-technology> Don't forget the 13th Annual Communications Academy April 16-17.

More info can be found at: <http://www.commacademy.org/>

2011 will be a great year in Western Washington. Watch this spot for updates on upcoming events.

I wish for you all, the enjoyment I have gotten over the last 53 years, from Ham Radio.

73 and good Hamming

Jim Pace K7CEX

## View from the Shack...

**Sparky notes that its not too early to begin planning for our 95th Anniversary Celebration. If you are interested in helping to put the big event together, contact the Secretary, KD4VOM...**

*Sparky*

***"Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die"***

*The Disclaimer...*

*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.*

## FYBO 2011

by Jimmy Olson, Barkie Cub reporter



Vertical Antenna set up next to surf.

FYBO, aka the **Freeze Your Buns Off** QRP winter field day is a ham radio contest that involves operating a QRP station(s) outside. These conditions are encouraged by the contest scoring system that consists of the number of QSOs multiplied by the number of separate SPCs (States Provinces Countries), an operating position temperature factor, a power output factor, and an energy (AC mains vs battery vs alternative power) factor. SSB contacts have the same value as CW contacts. FYBO is always held the first Saturday in February from 6 AM to 4 PM Pacific time.

A higher FYBO score could be attained by contacting many states and Canadian provinces, the radios outputting less than one watt, the operating position temperature being less than 0 deg F, and powering all of this by a battery being charged by a solar panel. Seems complicated?

Radio Club of Tacoma Hams have been participating in FYBO since 2003 or 2004. It was originally organized by Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W- Avid QRP enthusiasts. As years have

gone by... Alan N7OMS joined in and now Joe K7ZG has joined the ranks. Being an organizer means that you bring something to the operating party. The event is always held at Point Defiance Park and lately at the Owen Beach Picnic Shelter right close to the salt water of Commencement Bay.

For the last couple of years the FYBO equipment has consisted of a CW station and a SSB station. Rich KR7W brings more than one CW radio that connects to Alan N7OMS's 40/20 meter fan dipole that we call the "maypole antenna". This year Rich brought the usual QRP workhorse Yaesu FT-817 and a vintage Heathkit HW-9. The SSB station consisted of Alan N7OMS's Yaesu FT-897 and LDG tuner connected to Rich KR7W's 20 meter vertical antenna (sometimes known as the salt water vertical). The vertical antenna is set up as close to the surf as possible for the best ground plane for the best propagation. The Maypole antenna is set up in a safe area in the grass, just east of the shelter. Each antenna has a RG8X feed line of approx 100 ft.



Randy WB4SPB operates the vintage HW-9 QRP

Operating in the picnic shelter has many advantages... such as being outside in the cold without being rained on, creates a gathering place for visitors from the club, and attracts passers by who are curious about what we are doing. Many folks stop by and tell us that they know

Continued next page...

someone like their dad or uncle who is/was a ham operator. Young folks like the mystique of the Morse code operation.



The Yaesu FT-817 radio and Russian straight key.

**Rich KR7W comments:** This year the weather seemed more mild. The wind did not blow much and the surf was calm and much more scenic. Not much rain, either. I didn't feel as cold so I didn't run up and down the hill to keep warm as much. I brought my old Heathkit HW-9 - circa 1984 and my Yaesu FT-817 ver 1, circa 2003 to use at the CW station. I was pleased that some contacts were made on the HW-9 (3 watts output) with the self resonant Maypole antenna that did not require a tuner which means that no mili-watts were lost in an extra piece of equipment. The HW9 performed pretty well, but after a couple of QSOs the FT-817 went on the air. The CW station operated on 40, 20, and 15 meters this year. In the past years... no one was heard on 15. There was some phase noise from the SSB station when the CW station operated on 20 meters... but mostly we could hear through the noise. I was pleased that Randy WB4SPB had made contact with the contest sponsor, the Arizona ScQRPions, station: NQ7RP. This gained W7DK an extra 100 bonus points. I celebrated this event later in the day with a glass of IPA.

**Gary WG7X Comments:** Well as usual, Rich, Chuck, Al, and Joe put on a great FYBO. The weather was fairly clement this year and no buns were observed in the act of falling off. In previous years it took an extra hour or so to get the various buns that had fallen off back to their respective owners.

But seriously folks, with the many other QSO parties and other on-air activities there were plenty of folks to call, but it was a trial getting through to some of them. QRP is a humbling experience. You (the QRP'er) can hear the other folks fine business, but they had a bit of trouble hearing us. Never fear, we pressed on regardless and actually may some QSO's on twenty meter phone.

The highlight for me was when I went to 14.215, well below the General class allocation. I called CQ and was answered by a KL7 in Palmer, Alaska. Our QRP signal was a true 5x9 in Alaska. What made it even better was the fact that we had an interested observer in the person of a Truck driver guy who became very interested in the whole process. I made a point of showing him that we were able to talk to the fellow in Alaska with a mere five watts and a vertical on the beach. Then I invited him to attend the RCT open house on some Saturday!



The Yaesu FT-897 Radio and QRP watt meter.

**Joe K7ZG comments:** I totally enjoyed sitting down for a few QSOs at the CW station. I tend to laugh a little when I think about all those folks trying to cut through the QRM with less than five watts. But I've come to admire the skills of dedicated QRP contesters who pull tiny radios out of their backpacks, sign off with "72" instead of "73", and are happy to receive a 339 signal report! The SSB ops at Owen Beach performed wonders trying to get the big guns working the Minnesota QSO party to stop what they were

Continued next page...



doing and report their local temperature so we could record it in the log. Chuck AC7QN roasted some tasty brats on the barbeque and everyone had a great time. Turns out the placement of the FT-817 radio opposite the stone fireplace chimney in the shelter caused our Morse code audio signals from the speakers to be reflected with crystal clarity all the way to the parking lot, which attracted a number of curious visitors. I especially like to explain ham radio to the young kids. We all hope to see more RCT members jump in next year. It's pretty basic – paper logs on a clipboard, no computers or complicated equipment. Just remember to wear warm clothing. I think someone could set up a third QRPp station (less than 1 watt) on fifteen meters CW with a solar charged battery. That would really help to boost our score.



Randy WB4SPB operates the FT-817 Station with Joe's Vibroplex single lever paddle.

**Randy WB4SPB comments:** Friday night, prepping for my first FYBO, I searched for the rendezvous time (which I had heard but failed to burn-in) and found only that the contest start time was 6AM. Like fun I'd make that, and I figured Pt. Defiance Park might not even be open. So I guessed at 7:30, showed up about 7:15, and froze my buns off for a while. Having decided 8:30 might've been a better guess, I repaired to the Antique Sandwich Shop for just the weirdest scrambled eggs... then I was back in the parking lot and regained hope for a day's CW entertainment when Rich (KR7W) arrived at about 8:20.

Setup (and later take-down) of stations and antennas went quickly and seemed very practiced. Although I was all layered-up, I somehow didn't dress warmly enough and

had to resort to periodic jogs up the hill (as suggested by Rich). Thus I experienced the FYBO event in full measure: the outdoors, the cold, the uncomputerized contesting-of-old feeling, the amazingly low noise floor, the enjoyable tag-team approach to operating the two stations, the chance to visit with a good dozen club members and lots of passers by who wondered what we were up to, and great grilled brats for lunch. My sincere thanks to the Organizers.

**Al N7OMS comments:** QRP has always held a certain fascination for me. Moving your station up into the forests or mountains to get away from all the man made noise can make for some great locations. Running only 5 watts reduces the weight and complicity of the station equipment so operating from a picnic table for a few hours is very doable. Add to that some picnic treats or camp food and you can make some great memories. It also lends itself to being added to some of the other adventures I like to do: Bird Watching and Radio Direction Finding, to name a couple.



Joe K7ZG tunes in prospective contacts at the SSB station.

Just last year Sue and I joined Rich and Pat for some car camping at Fort Flagler for a Fox hunting event. Rich brought a small QRP setup and we pulled a dipole into the trees above the camp site. It just took a few minutes and we were on the air. So after a full day of finding the Foxes it was nice to sit and try to make a few QSO's. I have helped out with FYBO for the last few years and have always enjoyed the com-

companionship with the others that show up. Also watching the ferry move between Pt. Defiance and Vashon makes for some very picturesque moments. This year the weather was very good to us somewhat cool but not much wind. Puget Sound was very calm.

Days like that bring out the people so we had lots of questions from passersby's. We had a good turn out from RCT members also. There were even a few good birds to watch and listen to. We had a couple of Crows looking for the stray crumbs and even a Junco watched us from one of the other tables. The Junco was making a noise that sounded strangely like CW key clicks. Looking for food or a QSO, not sure which?

**Chuck AC7QN comments:** Another successful FYBO QRP Contest. Some days I'm not excited and it seems like a burden to attend events like this, but I've never been disappointed during or after FYBO. I've participated in about 8 of these now and they've all turned out to be worth my time.

It's challenging but doable to make contacts across the country using 5 watts or less of power. It takes patience and skill to know the optimum moment to respond to a "CQ".

The equipment has to be setup correctly and of high quality in order to make it all come together.

The camaraderie is exceptional. People with like interests getting together and spending time exchanging ideas and experiences.

Interfacing with the public and explaining the concept of Amateur Radio is good for both ego and the community goodwill. It promotes the hobby.

The practice of going to the field, setting up with minimum tools and equipment keeps amateurs prepared for emergencies.

When I got home following the event I was and am satisfied the event was worthwhile and I'm ready to do it again.

The Cub Reporter reports that the W7DK FYBO operators made 26 QSOs on 15/20/40M CW and 19 QSOs on 20M SSB. This totals up



**Joe K7ZG operates the CW station.**

to 18,404 points with the multipliers for battery power, 39 degree temperature, and for being at an outside location.

**Bob AD7LJ Comments:**

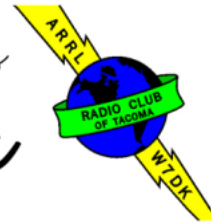
I especially enjoy the comradeship and how everyone has such a great time working with just 5 watts. Contacting other hams half way across the United States with QRP makes the contact more of a prize than a contact on 100 or greater watts. It is also great to be able to share amateur radio with all the people who stopped by. A good time was had by all and I especially got to freeze my buns off as I forgot a heavy jacket.

The Cub Reporter also tips a hat of thanks to Randy WB4SBP, Chuck AC7QN, and Rich KR7W for submitting photos for this article. The QRP Winter Field Day is over. Now the ionosphere can resume normal operation. Best Regards—over and out.





*The Radio Club of Tacoma's*  
**Logger's Bark**



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## Radio Club Repeaters

**Central Tacoma:** 147.280 + PL=103.5    **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970

**Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County):** 147.380 + PL=103.5

**Central Tacoma:** 440.625 + PL=103.5

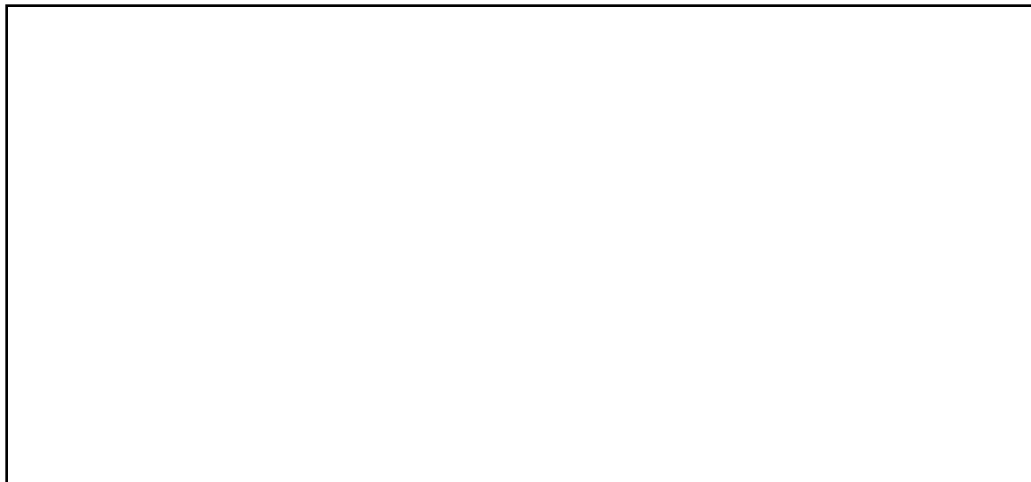
***The Loggers Bark***

**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**

**PO Box 11188**

**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



# FEBRUARY 2011 EVENTS

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Wednesdays February 9th and 23rd at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday February 2nd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club:** Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .